

BRAINTREE AND BOCKING URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1941.

Public Health Offices,
St. Peter's Close,
Bocking,
Braintree.

December, 1942.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you an interim report on the public health and sanitary conditions of the district during the year 1941. For reasons due to the war it has again been necessary to curtail the size and contents of the report. Although the bulk of the usual statistical information is excluded, all necessary records have been preserved in order that a more complete record of the year under review, and of the other war years, may be made available when conditions are more opportune.

No separate report is being submitted by the Chief Sanitary Inspector, but a short summary of the work of his department during 1941 is included in this report.

The general health of the Urban District remained satisfactory during the year. There was no serious epidemic of infectious disease.

GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES.

There were no changes in the general health services provided in the district during the year.

Legislation in Force.

No new byelaws were adopted or came into force during the year.

Staff.

On qualifying the assistant in the department left to take up position of Sanitary Inspector in an adjacent district.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water.

Both the Notley Road and the Bocking Waterworks were used for supply purposes throughout the year. As in 1940, pumping was again generally continuous at the Notley Road Waterworks, but even so the supply at times was barely adequate, and at times it has been necessary to run the steam pump with the electric pumps. Negotiations for a new electric pump have been entered into.

Apparatus for the chlorination of all public water supplies was installed in 1941, and operating satisfactorily.

A sample taken from the Notley Road Waterworks on the 29th December, 1941 was reported on by the County Bacteriologist as follows :-

Chemical Results in Parts per 100,000.

Appearance - Clear and bright.

Colour	Normal		Odour	Nil.
Reaction pH	Neutral	7.8.	Free Carbonic Acid	0.6
Electric Conductivity at 20°C		1700	Total Solids, dried at 180°C	113.0
Chlorine in Chlorides		40.0	Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	28.0
Hardness: Total		9.5	Temporary 9.5 Permanent	0.0
Nitrogen in Nitrates		0.12	Nitrites	Distinct Trace
Free Ammonia		0.0680	Ammoniacal Nitrogen	-
Albuminoid Ammonia		0.0012	Albuminoid Nitrogen	-
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 80°F		0.050		
Metals	Iron	0.007	Other metals	Absent
		Free Chlorine absent.		

Bacteriological Results.

Number of Bacteria growing on Agar per cc. or ml. in 1 day at 37°	4
" " " " " " " " cc. or ml. in 2 days " 37°	4
" " " " " " " " cc. or ml. in 3 days " 20°	-
The Bacillus Coli	Present in - Absent in 100 c.c.

Report:

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, practically neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water has a high content of salinity, very moderate hardness and is of satisfactory organic and bacterial purity. In this respect it is considered suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

Bocking Water Supply. 25th March 1941.

Chemical Results in Parts per 100,000.

Appearance	Clear and bright.		Odour	Nil.
Colour	Normal		Free Carbonic Acid	1.3
Reaction pH	Neutral	7.6.	Total solids dried at 180°C	66.5
Electric Conductivity at 20°C		995	Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	28.5
Chlorine in Chlorides		13.6	Temporary 26.5 Permanent	3.5
Hardness: Total		30.0	Nitrites	Absent
Nitrogen in Nitrates		0.00	Ammoniacal Nitrogen	-
Free Ammonia		0.0028	Albuminoid Nitrogen	-
Albuminoid Ammonia		0.0004		
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27°C		0.005		
Metals		Absent		

Number of Bacteria growing on	<u>1 day at 37°C</u>	<u>2 days at 37°C</u>	<u>3 days at 20°C</u>
Agar per cc. or ml.	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>-</u>

Presumptive Coliform Reaction	Present in -	Absent from 100 c.c.
Bact. coli	Present in -	Absent from 100 c.c.

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from iron and other metals.

The water is hard in character, although not to an excessive degree, contains no excess of saline or mineral matter in solution, is of satisfactory organic quality and a high standard of bacterial purity.

These are satisfactory results, consistent with a wholesome water suitable for the purposes of public supply.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Braintree Sewage Works.

These works continued to yield an effluent varying from unsatisfactory to very unsatisfactory on all occasions when samples were taken by the County Council for analysis.

Bocking Sewage Works.

Three of the four samples taken yielded satisfactory results.

No new connections were made to the sewer in 1941.

Sanitary Inspection.

During the year, inspections were made as a result of complaints of nuisances and of defects in dwelling houses etc. No routine inspections were possible, owing to pressure of Civil Defence (Evacuation) work in the Sanitary Inspector's department.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

Samples were taken from the Council's Swimming Pool and one privately owned pool in the District during the year, and the Bacteriologist's reports were satisfactory.

HOUSING.

No inspections were carried out. Visits on complaint were made in respect of defects. Certain houses previously condemned under the Housing Acts were put into a reasonable state of repair, and used for housing homeless people, under temporary licence granted by the Council.

Milk.

There was no change in the licences granted to producers and retailers of designated milks. No samples of milk were taken in 1941.

Meat.

The scheme for centralised slaughtering under the Ministry of Food continued during the year. Two slaughterhouses and occasionally a third have been used exclusively by the Ministry. The remainder of the privately owned slaughterhouses have not been used. Licensed slaughterhouses in the district numbered 6, and knackers' yards - 1.

During the year, 13,448 animals were slaughtered for human consumption. Of these 12,628 or 93.8% were inspected. The total amount of unsound food condemned during this period was 25.45 tons. In most cases the food was salvaged and used for trade purposes other than human consumption.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following cases of notifiable infectious disease occurred during the year :

Scarlet Fever	30	Measles	180
Whooping Cough	6	Polio-myelitis	2
Diphtheria	10	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1
Pneumonia	3		

One death occurred from Diphtheria and Meningitis. Most of the cases of Measles occurred during the first three months of the year.

Diphtheria Prophylaxis.

The scheme for the immunisation of children under the age of 15 against diphtheria was in full working order in 1941. During the year visits were paid to all the schools in the district and regular sessions were held at the Combined Treatment Centre, Coggeshall Road. The total number of children completely immunised at the end of 1941 was as follows :-

Children aged 5 to 15 i.e., school children	1,255.
Children under 5 years i.e., children under school age	176.

These figures represent approximately 53% and 12.5% of the child population of the district in the respective age groups.

Tuberculosis.

The total number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year was 92, and was made up as follows :-

Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
Male	Female	Male	Female
36	26	13	17

New cases notified during the year were 22 in number and were made up as follows :-

Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
Male	Female	Male	Female
9	7	2	4

During the year there were 2 deaths from Tuberculosis.

EVACUATION.

During the year considerable time was spent on finding and equipping accommodation for homeless persons.

The number of children housed at Boleyns Hostel was considerably increased, not so much by the admission of children from Braintree Urban District as by the admission of children from other reception areas in the region.

At the request of the Ministry of Health, "Fox Meadow", Courtauld Road, was requisitioned, equipped and used for aged persons evacuated from the London Area.

A large hall was requisitioned and equipped as a social centre for evacuees.

Towards the end of the year Monken Hadley was requisitioned and furniture and equipment purchased to prepare for its use as a hostel. During 1942 this building was handed over to the Essex County Council who will use it as a hostel.

British Restaurant.

At the request of the Ministry of Food a hall previously used as a social centre for evacuees was taken over and converted into a British Restaurant to feed 300 persons per day. All preliminary negotiations were made by the Sanitary Inspector's department. A very considerable effort culminated in the opening of the restaurant on October 9th, 1941 and the ready use of the restaurant by the public fully justified the launching of this venture.

Finally, I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the members of the Council for their support and to the Council's officers for their welcome co-operation throughout the year.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obedient Servant,

W. J. MOFFAT.

Medical Officer of Health.

